

BOROUGH OF NEWBURY
RURAL DISTRICTS OF BRADFIELD, NEWBURY
AND HUNGERFORD


ANNUAL
REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(including the reports of the
Public Health Inspectors)

for the year
1970

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Again I have the duty of presenting to you an Annual Report. This deals with 1970.

In common with the County, the Country and the World as a whole the population increased during the past year. The rate of increase has, however, slowed, and the 3% increase of 1969 has become but 1.4%. Upon the cause for this I am in no position to speculate and in the light of the warnings I have given in the past about reading unwarranted conclusions into statistics involving our comparatively small population (which is of course well under 1% of the total national population) I feel that I should do no more than state this as bare fact.

Perhaps, since this year is the end of a decade, I may use some of the figures from the past ten years to amplify my point about statistics which so often give apparently wrong impressions. For example the infant mortality rate has been recorded as low as nil and as high as 45.2 (in Hungerford in 1962). At first sight this would appear to indicate an epidemic of terrifying proportions in this particular area and in this particular year. The truth is, however, that this represented but seven deaths in the small number of births in the district in that year. If the rates are calculated using total figures for all ten years then the rate for any of the constituent districts ranges from a maximum of 15.5 to a minimum of 13. The difference between these is much smaller and reflects far more realistically the true significance of the figures. Similar comparisons could be made for all the rates.

But death - although paradoxically an essential part of life - is not a reasonable criterion by which to evaluate the health of any district. Neither is a figure relating to the infectious diseases, since these conditions are but a very small part of the total pattern of illness - distressing or tragic though each individual case may be.

However, some comment must be made on two of the notifiable infectious diseases. In relation to measles the huge figure of over 300 is unfortunate. There is an efficient, safe method of immunisation against this condition. The vast majority of the cases making up this year's total could have been - and should have been - prevented. Yet apathy has overtaken the measles vaccination programme in exactly the same way that all immunisation programmes are threatened. The consequences of this apathy - in particular relevance to measles - may - and I use the word 'may' quite deliberately - be small. But there is no guarantee that this child or that - or your child or mine - will not be the one in whom the consequences in damage to ears or chest are permanent. The odds are of course vastly in the favour of each child. Yet how many thousands each week dabble with much longer odds when the con-

sequences - for example on football pools - are in their favour? One deaf child, one bronchitic chest would **be** too many.

The other notifiable infectious disease on which comment is called for is poliomyelitis. It is many years since a case was notified but 1970 has proved a tragic exception. I do not want to dilate at any length on this point, other than to point out that this is tangible evidence that this disease can still happen. Some years ago I wrote in an Annual Report of the living monuments to this condition and suffice it to say that this disease reiterates - even more forcefully - the remarks made above about complete prevention.

Outside the realms of overt disease there is not - and never can be - any quantifiable assessment of illness and distress. Even the quality - let alone the cause - cannot be precisely described. Perhaps I am being somewhat cryptic but a concrete example may put some more precise description to the type of problem I have in mind.

During 1970 work began on the part of the M4 running through your district. One of the procedures involved moving an astronomical number of yards of sand; This was carried out by huge machines, and within a fairly small distance of housing. The noise became intolerable. But by what criteria can one judge the effect on health? No-one became clinically ill; no-one was admitted to hospital on this account; no-one figures in any of the tables of this report as a direct result of this action. Yet no-one can deny that noise of this intensity - sufficient to make normal conversation impossible and peaceful sleep a rarity - cannot be other than distressing and harmful in a psychological even if not a physical sense. It must in all fairness to the contractors be made clear that they were anxious to help and when eventually a means of silencing became available they co-operated admirably.

This noise trouble is, however, but one facet of the problem we are creating for ourselves by our universal adulation and subservience to the motor car. Look within the report at the figure of 16 motor vehicle accident deaths. Look outside the report, as I must perforce do when going home from the office each day, at the mothers with prams waiting to cross a main road with no adequate provision for them. Look at the disused vehicles, at best merely eyesores, or at worst rusting in rivers or presenting tempting but potentially lethal playgrounds for children. Or smell the fumes on a sultry day or listen to the traffic noise at a Bank Holiday weekend.

Pope's maxim about the "study of mankind is man" can never have been more true. Whether we are wilfully harming ourselves by neglecting immunisation or by setting our sights on material ends without "heed for the morrow" it is we who are at fault.

Pollution - and the allied but by no means synonymous conservation - is not just the concern of the Public Health Department - it is your concern and mine. It is the fouling of public places by dogs; it is the running of septic tanks for years on end without desludging; it is the random strewing of litter; it is neglecting to pick up a piece of broken glass on a playing field; it is in fact almost the sum total of daily life. It is - and I have tried to make this point in previous years - something that only by prolonged and often tedious re-iteration and re-education can we bring home to the public. Only the gross failures and disasters reach the newspapers. The day to day work of the Public Health Inspectors - on whom falls the brunt of the burden - is mainly advisory, and amounts in essence to helping us to help ourselves.

To the Inspectors, to the Committee and to all the others concerned with health I express my thanks for their help and co-operation. But to the public - for whom we all try to work - I express only the wish that they realise that they cause most of the problems but that they by the same token also have most of the answers.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient servant

ROBERT HANDY

Medical Officer of Health.

SOUTH BERKS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1970 – 1971

LIST OF MEMBERS

Newbury Borough

Mrs. E. DYSON

L.L. HALL, Esq.

M.W. PAINE, Esq., M.B.E.

Bradfield R.D.

Mrs. N.G. PILKINGTON

A.H.R. STEBBING, Esq.

A.H. WYATT, Esq.

Newbury R.D.

Mrs. P. DAVIES

BRIGADIER W.J. COLYER

G.H. PEARCE, Esq.

Hungerford R.D.

Mrs. E.M. GILLMAN

D.J. BRADY, Esq.

Berks County Council

HON. Mrs. D.R. MACLAY

A. ARBUTHNOTT, Esq., M.B.E., E.D.

MAJOR H. FAIRFAX HARVEY, M.B.E., M.C.

Clerk: L. SOUTHERN, Esq., LL.B., Municipal Buildings, Newbury.

(Telephone 4000)

**BOROUGH OF NEWBURY, RURAL DISTRICTS OF
BRADFIELD, NEWBURY AND HUNGERFORD**

Medical Officer of Health.

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Telephone: Newbury 1144

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Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
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Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

K.H. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board as Sani-
tary Inspector.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Certificate of Sanitary Science as applied to
Building and Public Works.

J. HAYWARD, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector

Public Health Inspectors Diploma of the Public
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Smoke Inspectors Diploma.

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Hungerford R.D.

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Chief Public Health Inspector
The Priory, Hungerford,
(Telephone 2726)

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as
Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL STATISTICS

District	Area in Acres (Land and Inland Water)	Estimated Population	Persons per Acre
Newbury Borough	2,612	22,310	8.5
Bradfield Rural	53,008	39,130	0.7
Newbury Rural	43,077	24,870	0.6
Hungerford Rural	44,817	10,800	0.2
Joint Districts	143,514	97,110	0.7

Area	Births	Deaths	Population Change (+ or -)	Births Minus Deaths
Newbury Borough	395	261	+140	134
Bradfield R.D.	741	279	+660	462
Newbury R.D.	427	261	+280	166
Hungerford R.D.	180	126	+150	54
Joint Districts	1,743	927	+1,230	816

AREA COMPARABILITY FACTORS

			Newbury Borough	Bradfield Rural	Newbury Rural	Hungerford Rural
Births	...	...	1.02	0.93	0.98	1.09
Deaths	...	...	0.83	1.34	0.94	0.73

VITAL STATISTICS

Births and Deaths

The following table shows the totals of births and deaths and the rates per thousand appropriate population. The corresponding figures for 1969 are in brackets.

District	Number of Live Births	Live Births Rate	Death Rate	Infant Deaths per 1,000 live Births
Newbury Borough	395 (383)	18.1 (17.6)	9.7 (9.9)	10 (18)
Bradfield Rural	741 (776)	17.6 (18.8)	9.5 (10.1)	11 (13)
Newbury Rural	427 (413)	16.9 (16.5)	9.9 (9.7)	12 (19)
Hungerford Rural	180 (186)	18.2 (19.1)	8.5 (9.4)	6 (5)
Joint Districts	1,743(1,758)	17.9 (18.4)	9.5 (9.5)	10 (15))

	Newbury Borough	Bradfield Rural	Newbury Rural	Hungerford Rural	Joint Districts
Illegitimate live births per cent total live births	7.5 (6.5)	5.0 (4.5)	5.6 (5.3)	6.7 (9.1)	5.9 (5.6)

District	Still-births	Total live and still-births	Still birth rate	Neo-natal death rate
Newbury Borough	2 (3)	397 (386)	5 (8)	8 (16)
Bradfield Rural	6 (8)	747 (784)	8 (10)	7 (9)
Newbury Rural	5 (4)	432 (417)	12 (10)	9 (17)
Hungerford Rural	1 (2)	181 (188)	6 (11)	6 (—)
Joint Districts	14 (17)	1,757 (1,775)	8 (10)	7 (11)

District	Early Neo-natal death rate	Peri-natal death rate
Newbury Borough	8 (10)	13 (18)
Bradfield Rural	7 (9)	15 (19)
Newbury Rural	9 (15)	21 (24)
Hungerford Rural	6 (—)	11 (11)
Joint Districts	7 (10)	19 (19)

District	Total Infant Deaths	Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	Legitimate Infant death rate	Illegitimate Infant death rate
Newbury District	4 (7)	3 (6)	11 (17)	— (40)
Bradfield Rural	8 (10)	5 (7)	11 (13)	— (—)
Newbury Rural	5 (8)	4 (7)	12 (13)	— (45)
Hungerford Rural	1 (1)	1 (—)	6 (6)	— (—)
Joint Districts	18 (26)	13 (20)	11 (14)	— (20)

CAUSES OF DEATH

DEATHS:	Newbury Borough	Bradfield Rural	Newbury Rural	Hunger- ford Rural	Total (all areas)
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	2	-	2
Late effects of					
Respiratory T.B.	-	1	-	-	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-
All other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	-	2	-	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	-	6	2	-	8
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	4	5	2	15
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	7	11	5	4	27
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	20	9	3	45
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	-	-	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	7	7	2	3	19
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	3	1	1	6
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	3	1	4	1	9
Leukaemia	-	2	-	2	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	19	13	14	68
Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	-	1	-	1	2
Diabetes	1	2	4	-	7
Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	-	-	-	-	-
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	1	3	5
Anaemias	1	-	-	-	1
Other diseases of blood etc.	1	-	-	-	1
Mental disorders	-	1	-	-	1
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases of nervous system and sense organs	2	1	3	-	6
Active rheumatic heart disease	1	-	-	-	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	3	-	2	2	7
Hypertensive disease	4	7	6	2	19
Ischaemic heart disease	62	72	55	28	217
Other forms of heart disease	15	9	18	8	50
Cerebrovascular disease	45	30	42	17	134
Other diseases of the circulatory system	9	8	11	2	30
Influenza	4	3	1	5	13
Pneumonia	17	25	30	7	79
Bronchitis, emphysema	9	7	8	5	29
Other diseases of the respiratory system	3	2	-	-	5
Peptic ulcer	2	2	2	1	7

Appendicitis	1	-	-	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	1	2	1	5
Cirrhosis of the liver	1	1	1	-	3
Other diseases of the digestive system	1	2	4	1	8
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	3	1	1	6
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	1	1	-	2
Other diseases of the genito-urinary system	1	3	4	-	8
Diseases of the musculo- skeletal system and connective tissue	-	-	1	1	2
Congenital anomalies	3	1	2	-	6
Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	2	2	4	1	9
Other causes of perinatal mortality	-	3	-	-	3
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	1	3	-	5
Motor vehicle accidents	4	2	5	5	16
All other accidents	4	8	4	1	17
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	4	2	2	1	9
All other external causes	-	1	-	2	3
Total	261	279	261	126	927

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease notified in each district during 1970:

Disease	Newbury Borough	Bradfield Rural	Hunger- ford Rural	Newbury Rural	Total All Areas
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	1
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	1	—	—	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	—	1
Infective Hepatitis	3	7	—	9	19
Leprosy	—	—	—	—	—
Leptospirosis	—	—	—	—	—

Malaria	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	39	198	21	50	308
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	2	2	—	4
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	3	9	—	2	14
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	3	—	—	5
Yellow Fever	—	—	—	—	—

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

These services are under the control of the County Health Department under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946

Newbury Health Sub-Committee is responsible for diphtheria and whooping cough prophylaxis within the Borough of Newbury.

Immunisation is performed at Child Welfare Centres and by the general practitioners, who are also in the main responsible for smallpox vaccination.

NEWBURY BOROUGH IMMUNISATION 1970

Children Born In	1970	1969	1968	1967	1963–66	Others Under 16 yrs.
Triple:						
Primary	79	209	14	—	—	—
Booster	—	—	95	18	3	—
Dip/Tet.						
Primary	—	—	—	4	—	—
Booster	—	—	19	48	266	15
Measles	—	172	145	74	182	31
Polio:						
Primary	85	207	12	—	—	—
Booster	—	—	96	18	268	31
Smallpox:	9–12 mths.	1 yr.	2–4 yrs.	5–15 yrs.	Over 15 yrs.	Others Under 16 yrs.
Primary	—	160	114	6	—	—
Re-vaccination	—	—	27	49	57	9

**BRADFIELD RURAL
IMMUNISATION 1970**

Children Born In	1970	1969	1968	1967	1963-66	Others Under 16 yrs.
Triple:						
Primary	159	427	53	16	—	—
Booster	—	—	212	41	12	—
Dip/Tet.						
Primary	—	—	5	17	8	—
Booster	—	—	78	33	514	34
Measles	—	343	204	264	425	57
Polio:						
Primary	153	425	51	14	—	—
Booster	—	—	240	38	522	31
Smallpox:	9-12 mths.	1 yr.	2-4 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	Over 15 yrs.	Others Under 16 yrs.
Primary	5	363	362	26	4	—
Re-vaccination	—	—	20	49	57	12

**HUNGERFORD RURAL
IMMUNISATION 1970**

Children Born In	1970	1969	1968	1967	1963-66	Others Under 16 yrs.
Triple:						
Primary	24	93	2	5	—	—
Booster	—	—	38	5	2	—
Dip/Tet.						
Primary	—	—	—	—	—	—
Booster	—	—	—	5	98	9
Measles:	—	54	34	51	77	12
Polio:						
Primary	23	95	2	—	—	—
Booster	—	—	37	5	4	8
Smallpox:	9-12 mths.	1 yr.	2-4 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	Over 15 yrs.	Others Under 16 yrs.
Primary	—	79	83	—	—	—
Re-vaccination	—	—	3	13	25	—

**NEWBURY RURAL
IMMUNISATION 1970**

Children Born In	1970	1969	1968	1967	1963-66	Others Under 16 yrs.
Triple:						
Primary	75	231	6	4	—	—
Booster	—	—	101	35	6	—
Dip/Tet.						
Primary	—	—	2	—	—	—
Booster	—	—	—	62	331	31
Measles:	—	169	191	45	192	58
Polio:						
Primary	74	225	11	—	—	—
Booster	—	—	102	32	321	30
Smallpox:	9-12 mths.	1 yr.	2-4 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	Over 15 yrs.	Others Under 16 yrs.
Primary	—	176	168	5	—	—
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	82	58	7

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1970-

Age Periods	Newbury Borough		Bradfield Rural		Newbury Rural		Hungerford Rural	
	Resp.	Non. Resp.	Resp.	Non. Resp.	Resp.	Non. Resp.	Resp.	Non. Resp.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
65 & upwards	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	2	7	2	—	2	—	—

The following table shows the number of new cases of tuberculosis (respiratory and non-respiratory) which have occurred in the combined areas during the last ten years.

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Totals
1961	30	2	32
1962	17	1	18
1963	26	1	27
1964	23	2	25
1965	24	9	33
1966	11	2	13
1967	20	1	21
1968	9	1	10
1969	15	2	17
1970	8	6	14

NEWBURY BOROUGH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1970

STAFF

Chief Public Health Inspector

G. J. WICKENS, M.A.P.H.I.

Qualifications:—

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector.

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Food.

Additional Public Health Inspector K. H. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I.

Qualifications:—

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board — as Sanitary Inspector.

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Food.

Certificate of Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Additional Public Health Inspector J. HAYWARD, M.A.P.H.I.,

A.M.R.S.H.

Qualifications:—

Public Health Inspectors Diploma of the Public Health Inspectors Education Board.

Certificate of Royal Society of Health for the Inspection of Meat and Other Food.

Smoke Inspectors Diploma issued by the Royal Society of Health.

Shorthand-Typist

Miss E. M. Ferguson

Water Supplies

The water supply to the area has been satisfactory during the year. All the houses within the Borough are supplied from the mains.

Twenty-eight samples of domestic supply were taken during the year, and in each instance the supply was found to be satisfactory. In one case several of these samples were taken from a new building where, owing to the height, a storage tank has been incorporated in the top of the building to supply the higher floors of this block.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the district are satisfactory and the extensions of the sewers have allowed a few isolated houses to be connected to the main drainage system.

No serious problems were experienced with any properties on septic tank drainage.

HOUSING HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE Return for year 1970

A.1. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

	Houses demolished	Displaced during year Persons	Families
In Clearance Areas			
(Housing Act, 1957)			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	—	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.,	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
Not in Clearance Areas			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957	3	4	1
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by M.O.H.	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts.	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	—	—	—
A.2. Number of dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed.	—	—	—

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

(8) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
(9) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
(10) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(11) After informal action by local authority	25	
(12) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	2	—
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	—	—
(13) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	—	

D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)

	Number of Houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation	—	—
(a) Under Section 48	—	—
(b) Under Section 17(2)	—	—
(c) Under Section 46	—	—
(15) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 35	—	—

E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT

	Number of Houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
(16) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders purchased in the year 1970.	—	—

HOUSING ACTS, 1957 - 1969

The future of the houses at Camp Close was settled during the year. The Ministry have now allowed the estate to be demolished and re-housing of the tenants and demolition of the eighty-four properties had been commenced at the end of the year.

The Council made a Clearance Order in respect of the terrace of property known as 1 - 11, Eastbourne Terrace, and at the end of the year the Ministry's confirmation was awaited on this order. This in fact is only the second Clearance Order that the Council has made since the Slum Clearance Programme was commenced in 1955.

FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk and Dairies

The Dairy where processing of milk had been undertaken since 1936, closed in September, the firm transferring their activities to a more modern depot at Didcot. During the long period which the Dairy has been in operation under several ownerships, a good record has been maintained of quality of output, and the co-operation which has been received from the various managements has been always of the highest standard.

Bacteriological examination of milk:—

Samples procured for	Type of Milk	Total samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Void
1 Methylene Blue Test	T.T. Past	8 41	4 40	4 1	— 4
2 Phosphatase Test	Past	45	45	—	—
3 Turbidity Test	Sterilized	8	8	—	—

The failing samples of T.T. milk were due to errors in production and once these had been corrected no further trouble was experienced. Before the end of the year, however, this source of supply of milk had disappeared and the quantity of raw milk now sold in the Borough is very small indeed.

Twenty series of bottles taken from the washer at the only pasteurising plant in the district were submitted to examination, and the Bacteriologist's report showed that they were satisfactory.

Manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream.

84 samples of ice-cream were examined and were placed in the following grades:—

Grade I	69
Grade II	8
Grade III	2
Grade IV	5

All the low grade ice-creams were samples taken from machines which used cold-mix ice-cream powder, and where re-constitution was undertaken on the premises. Attention to the cleaning of the machines resulted in grade one samples being obtained. The intricacies of these machines call for special cleaning and unless this is undertaken low grade products can soon result.

Classification of Food Premises within the jurisdiction of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960

Butchers	...	...	...	16
General Stores	...	...	...	7
Hotels and other licensed premises			...	44
Grocers	...	...	...	36
Confectioners and Bakers			...	21
Catering	...	...	...	16
Greengrocers	...	...	...	10
Fishmongers	...	...	...	1
Dairies	...	...	...	1
Supermarkets	...	...	...	9
Ice-Cream Manufacturers		...	...	1

FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED

	Tons	Cwts	lbs	Tons	Cwts	lbs.
1. Meat						
(a) slaughterhouse						
(i) carcase meat	7	10	0			
(ii) offal	23	13	0	31	3	0
(b) wholesale premises						
(i) carcase meat		3	21			
(ii) offal	-	-	-		3	21
(c) retail shops						
(i) carcase meat		1	10			
(ii) offal			110		2	8
2. Cooked meat and meat products						60
3. Canned meats					1	20
4. Other canned foods				3	11	50
5. Fish (fresh)						40
6. Fruit and vegetables (fresh)						76
7. Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown				2	11	56
8. Other foods					2	70
Total				37	16	65

Meat Inspection

Whilst the Abattoir did not reach the high throughput of the previous year a steady throughput was maintained and an increase was evident towards the end of the year.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number Slaughtered	3,093	816	334	4,851	41,692	50,786
Number Inspected	3,093	816	334	4,851	41,692	50,786
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	20	18	20	184	245
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1,064	380	31	322	5,361	7,158
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	34.5	49.0	14.7	7.0	12.8	—

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	79	79
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.18	—

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	2	—	—	—	10
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	8	2	—	—	—	10
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES, SHOPS, ETC.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	49	30	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	137	127	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	186	157	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
		Remedied (3)	Notified To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	Nil

Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	Nil
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	Nil
TOTAL	6	6	—	1	Nil

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL AND DISINFECTION

Rodent Control:

The number of agricultural, horticultural and business properties which were under contract to the Joint Rodent Control Committee at the end of 1970 were:-

Newbury Borough	9
Newbury Rural District	31
Hungerford Rural District	42
a total of	82

Although reports were received of warfarin resistant rats being encountered in an adjoining district no problems were experienced of this nature within the three districts covered by the Joint Committee.

Owing to the retirement of one of the rodent operators and the difficulty of obtaining a replacement, the service was disrupted for a short time towards the end of the year. Fortunately the services of another rodent operator were obtained before the peak infestations were experienced in December.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 Return of work by Rodent Operators

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	21	7,626	14	1,844	9,505
2. Number of properties inspected by Local Authority during 1969 as a result of,	(a)				
(a) notification, or	11	276	2	73	362
(b) otherwise	(b)				
(a) notification, or	7	18	4	6	35
(b) otherwise					
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats	18	236	6	60	320
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice	—	58	—	19	77
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority	18	294	6	79	397

6. Number of notices served under Section 4					
(1) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural works (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
8. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Any problems with this legislation are generally encountered at the drawing board stage as all the premises registered under the Act are built to comply with it's requirements, and no exemption certificates have been issued within the Borough.

TABLE A – Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises (1)	No. of premises registered during the year (2)	Total No. of registered premises at end of year (3)	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year (4)
Offices	19	134	19
Retail Shops	9	213	107
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	16	16
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	4	35	35
Fuel storage depots	—	2	—
TOTALS	33	400	177

TABLE B – Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises
860

TABLE C – Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	1838
Retail Shops	1592
Wholesale departments, warehouses	213
Catering establishments open to public	247
Canteens	16
Fuel storage depots	7
Total	3913
Total males	1593
females	2320

TABLE D – Exemptions

Class of Premises (1)	Space (Sec.5(2))	Temperature (Sec.6)	Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.9)	Washing Facilities (sec.10)
Offices	—	—	—	—
Retail Shops	—	—	—	—
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	—	—	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	—	—	—
Fuel Storage depots	—	—	—	—

TABLE E – Prosecutions

Prosecutions instituted of which the hearing was completed in the year	Nil
Number of complaints (or summary applications) made under Section 22	Nil
Number of interim orders granted	Nil

BRADFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector

WATER SUPPLIES

With the exception of Sulham and Englefield, all parishes in the district continued to be supplied with mains water drawn from six underground sources under the control of the Thames Valley Water Board.

The boreholes are situated at Streatley, Bradfield, Pangbourne, Mortimer, Grazeley and Ufton Nervet and supplies are linked so that a deficiency in one can be augmented from another.

All water is chlorinated before distribution. Bacteriological and chemical samples were taken regularly from sources, reservoirs and the distribution system by the Board during the year and these were found to be satisfactory, with no instances of unusual contamination occurring.

The natural fluoride content of the Streatley, Pangbourne and Bradfield sources was less than 0.1 mgm/litre while water from the Grazeley source contained 1.4 mgm/litre.

The water is not known to be plumbo solvent and no tests for lead were carried out in this connection during the year.

Samples as detailed below were collected in the area during the year:—

Source	No. of Samples	Reservoirs & Towers	No. of Samples	Natural Fluoride p.p.m.
Bradfield	46	Great House	2	less than 0.1
		Burnt Hill	2	
		Tutts Clump Res.	2	
		Frilsham Tower	2	
Grazeley	59	Tilehurst Tower and Reservoir	5	less than 0.1
Mortimer	54	—	—	1.4
Pangbourne	56	—	—	1.2
Ufton Nervet	50	Burghfield Tower	6	1.1
Woods Farm	47	Streatley Reservoir and Tower	4	less than 0.1
Distribution System	35			

No samples of raw water were taken by this Department but eighteen routine samples of mains water on final distribution were taken at different locations throughout the district and were all found to be of excellent bacteriological quality.

Priority was once more given to the regular sampling of private water supplies with emphasis again being placed on the routine sampling of all wells and deep bores supplying Estates, food premises and domestic and industrial premises.

Samples were also taken from individual wells serving private houses at the request of the owners or occupiers of the properties concerned.

A total of one hundred and eighty one water samples were taken from private supplies for bacteriological examination during the year and of these, one hundred and thirty five samples proved to be entirely satisfactory. Of the forty different sources tested, sixteen showed evidence of intermittent pollution and appropriate remedial action was taken in respect of these supplies.

The majority have now fitted chlorination or filtration plants to their existing supply and subsequent routine tests have proved satisfactory. Three properties were able to connect to a mains water supply, and the wells involved have been taken out of use. Four properties served by joint wells are in the process of being extensively renovated and the occupiers have been advised to boil all drinking water pending the provision of an alternative supply.

The following table shows the estimated position in respect of main and other water supplies to houses throughout the district:—

Parish	Area in Acres	Houses	Estimated Population Oct. 1970	Houses connected to Mains Water Houses	Est. Pop.	Houses not on Mains Water
Aldermaston	3438	514	2471	497	2389	17
Ashampstead	2082	132	432	132	432	Nil
Basildon	3139	428	1457	422	1437	6
Beech Hill	1136	98	345	96	338	2
Beenham	2068	271	874	251	809	20
Bradfield	4271	439	1667	419	1591	20
Bucklebury	5825	808	2422	718	2152	90
Burghfield	4310	1104	3742	1059	3589	45
Englefield	1437	65	211	7	23	58
Frilsham	1078	105	320	102	311	3
Grazeley	519	8	25	8	25	Nil
Padworth	1184	155	483	124	386	31
Pangbourne	1940	882	2863	841	2730	41
Purley	1159	957	2593	947	2566	10
Stanford Dingley	1239	82	277	68	230	14
Stratfield Mortimer	3031	1087	3527	1078	3498	9
Streatley	3655	330	1044	312	987	18
Sulham	723	35	95	2	5	33
Sulhamstead	1993	523	1688	496	1601	27
Sulh'mst'd Bannister	556	32	108	32	108	Nil
Theale	1619	1060	3156	1045	3111	15
Tidmarsh	783	96	308	74	237	22
Tilehurst	1548	2833	9530	2832	9527	1
Ufton Nervet	2189	75	216	71	204	4
Wokefield	665	28	110	28	110	Nil
Yattendon	1400	94	293	85	265	9
TOTALS	52989	12241	40257	11746	38661	495

A small number of dwellings are still supplied by standpipes but accurate figures are not available.

MAINS LAID 1970

LOCATION	3" Lin. yds.	4" Lin. yds.	6" Lin. yds.
Off Clayhill Road, Burghfield.	56	700	—
Ext. Kennet Valley, Nursery, Burghfield Rd.	—	159	78
Shenfield Mill Area, Theale.	—	110	—
Garston Copse, Tilehurst.	—	658	—
Off St. John's Road, Mortimer.	152	—	—
Almswood Road, Aldermaston	108	—	—
"Wakemans". Upper Basildon	176	—	—
Westfield House, Oxford Road, Purley.	—	206	—
Adjacent Place Farm, Bucklebury	198	—	—
Church View, Beenham.	—	145	—
Turnham Farm, City Rd., Tilehurst	—	2110	—
Langley Hill, Calcot	—	417	—
Upper Basildon Link — Pangbourne Heights	—	—	3503
Chapel Row, Bucklebury Common.	—	—	1000
TOTALS	690	4505	4581

The continued onus imposed on Local Authorities by statute to provide a wholesome piped water supply within their individual districts is I feel an anachronism in present day circumstances and legislation transferring this function to the Water Boards where it rightly belongs is long overdue.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following details in respect of new drainage schemes and improvements undertaken during the year.

1. Details of progress on the various drainage schemes is as follows:—

A. Foul Drainage

Scheme	Remarks
Lower Padworth. New sewer and 3 pumping stations. Disposal at Theale sewage treatment works.	Tender accepted on 1.12.70. Work due to commence March 1971.
Tilehurst. Relief sewer in Overdown Road and drainage of Little Heath Road.	Scheme completed.
Basildon, Wakemans. Diversion of sewers and abandonment of small sewage treatment plant.	Scheme completed.
Stanford Dingley/Rotton Row/ Tutts Clump. New sewers and 2 pumping stations.	Approval of the Department of the Environment awaited.

Upper Basildon. New sewer and 4 pumping stations.	ditto
Frilsham. Drainage of part of village and enlargement of sewage treatment plant.	ditto
Sulhampstead, Hollybush Lane. Extension to sewer.	Work completed.
Theale. Sewage Treatment Works. Provision of sludge treatment plant.	Work commenced 23.11.70
Aldermaston, Pelican Road Area. New sewers.	Tender accepted 1.12.70 Work due to commence February 1971.

B. Surface Water Drainage

Basildon, Ashampstead Road.	Work completed.
Burghfield, Hatchgate Area.	Work scheduled for commencement February 1971.

2. In addition to the schemes mentioned above, the following areas in the district require main drainage, existing drainage arrangements being unsatisfactory.

The list is not in order of priority, this being subject to review as circumstances alter.

Parish	Area	Approx. No. of Dwellings.	Remarks
Aldermaston	Red Lane, Reading Road.	26	High Water Table
	Pinelands Caravan Site and possibly properties adjoining the Congregational Chapel situated in Hampshire	42 caravans 20 (Hants.)	
Streatley	Wantage Road	60	Septic tank irrigation difficulties. Could be pumped to existing sewers.
Burghfield	Cunning Man area	42 including Pingewood Road beyond Kennet Cottages	
	Pingewood	17	
Bucklebury	Trash Green area	12 + 4 (Bennets Lane)	Could be connected to sewer via McManus Estate.
	Longrove	17	
	The Alley	34	Possible arrangements with Newbury R.D.C.
	The Slade	28	Clay subsoil. Stream polluted. Small Gardens. Would require separate system.
	Cold Ash Road, The Ridge	41	Possible arrangements with Newbury R.D.C.
	Turners Green	18	Would require separate system.
	The Village	23	

Parish	Area	Approx. No. of Dwellings.	Remarks
Tidmarsh with Sulham	Villages	110	High water table
Purley	Oxford Road	30	Open development. Large gardens. Could either be pumped to Purley sewer or Borough Sewer.
Theale	Wigmore Lane	22	High water table. Could be connected to sewer from Lower Padworth.
Yattendon	Southern part of Village	20	
Theale	Mill Lane, Calcot	12	Clay subsoil. Could be pumped or gravitated to Calcot sewer.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The nine permanently licensed sites in the district continued to function, providing accommodation for a total of 438 vans as follows:—

Permanent Sites

Garstons Park (Caravans) Ltd., Tilehurst	222 Caravans
Frank Panter (Sites) Ltd., Ravenswing Caravan Site, Aldermaston	150 Caravans
Pinelands Caravan Site, Aldermaston	42 Caravans
Burghfield Rectory	11 Caravans
Old Mill Farm, Beenham	6 Caravans
Colyton Way, Purley Park Estate	3 Caravans
River Gardens, Purley Park Estate	2 Caravans
Isotope Developments Ltd., Beenham Grange	2 Caravans

Thirty-seven temporary site licences were in force during the year covering fifty-four vans. The total number of caravans under licence within the area was four hundred and ninety-two.

Other caravans in the district were covered by the exemption clauses contained in the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 and included vans stationed in the gardens of houses and used to supplement sleeping accommodation, and those used by casual labour on farms or in conjunction with building operations.

With the commencement of the building of the Motorway through the district there came an influx of moveable dwellings housing construction workers. It was felt that it would be advantageous to have these vans grouped together where possible, where some control could be exercised, rather than have large numbers of individual vans spread along the length of sections of the Motorway.

One construction firm has formed such a site at Burghfield which will accommodate approximately thirty-five large residential type caravans.

The site, which will be in use for a period of about 2½ years has been laid out with main drainage, mains water supply and full sanitation facilities.

Other groups of vans used by motorway workers are temporarily stationed on surrounding farms and routine visits have been made from time to time to check that facilities are adequate.

All licensed sites in the district were inspected during the year including several new caravan sites and sites due for re-licensing. In general, conditions were found to be good.

Some difficulty was experienced with one of the permanently licensed sites where continual vandalism to fixtures and fittings on the site created many problems.

No sooner had damage been repaired and facilities put in working order than hot water systems were again put out of action, electrical equipment interfered with and fittings smashed.

The situation presented obvious difficulties in enforcing those requirements of the Conditions of Licence regarding maintaining the facilities in working order at all times and also led after repeated repair works had been carried out to an understandable reluctance on the part of the owner to continue to replace damaged fittings.

Following several interviews with the tenants and the site owner the matter was resolved without recourse to formal action and conditions are now satisfactory.

The Local Authority sites at Mortimer and Purley continued in general to operate satisfactorily during the year.

It was felt that the adequacy of the existing fire fighting arrangements on the Gypsy site, though sufficient when the Site was first opened, was now questionable, particularly since the growth of the numbers and sizes of the 'storage sheds' erected by the tenants. It was also found that several of these timber structures were in fact not being used for storage as intended but were being utilized in some cases as additional accommodation from the caravans. The use of these structures for habitation in addition to being unacceptable from the public health aspect also presented considerable fire hazard.

A report was presented on the situation and measures were put in hand at the end of the year to improve the conditions.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

During the year approximately 12,000 tons of refuse was collected and disposed of at the Council's refuse tip at Webbs Lane, Beenham. It is estimated that the area remaining to be filled should provide tipping facilities for the next 2½ - 3 years. Acquisition of another tip in the Southern part of the District will provide tipping space for approximately five years.

The weekly collection from inside the gate of properties continued in general to operate satisfactorily through the greater part of the year, but services were disrupted for a period of 5 weeks in October/November by strike action taken by the Authority's refuse collectors.

Arrangements were made for the delivery of paper sacks to certain distribution points in each parish in the district, supplies also being held by local councillors, and householders collected the sacks from these points as required. Disposal points were set up where householders could take the filled sacks and collection was made by a private contractor employed by the Council. The emergency arrangements were well publicised both through the Press and through lists of collection and disposal points for the refuse sacks being displayed on local notice boards, and in local shops.

Fifty-two such disposal points were set up in the District and daily visits were made as a routine to each of the compounds and to the Council's Tip by the Rodent Control Staff in connection with Rodent and Fly Control.

The emergency measures taken over this period worked extremely well and no serious difficulties were encountered.

Equipment:	2 x Bedford Eagle Compressload 7 (7 tons).	
	2 x Bedford Eagle Crushload 5 (5 tons).	
	1 - Bedford Eagle Crushload 3 (3 tons).	
	1 - Drott Crawler Tractor	} Tip Control
	1 - 6 ton Bedford Tipper Truck	
	1 - Bedford 10 cwt. van and trailer for special collections.	

Employees:	4 Drivers.
	16 Loaders.
	1 Man employed on tip control.
	2 Men for special collections.

Derelict Vehicles

Collection and disposal of derelict vehicles deposited within the district continued to be carried out by a private contractor.

The arrangements continued to operate satisfactorily.

Since March 1965, 873 vehicles have been removed by the Council's contractor.

SEPTIC TANK/CESSPOOL EMPTYING SCHEME

This service which is carried out by private contractor continued in general to operate satisfactorily during the year.

No. of households using the service	1356
No. of households having free emptyings only (once every 18 months).	1235
No. of households having frequent chargeable emptyings.	121
1356 tanks were emptied during the year involving 1908 loads.	

HOUSING

Number of Dwellings built:

A.	By Local Authority	30
B.	By Private Enterprise	300

Remedy of defects during the year

1.	Numbers of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	47
2.	Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied by informal action	37
3.	Number of dwellings rendered fit by statutory action	5
4.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
5.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made	5
6.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Undertakings were made	5
7.	Number of dwellings demolished following formal or informal action	6
8.	Number of dwellings closed following formal or informal action	10
9.	Number of dwellings included in Clearance Orders made by the Local Authority	Nil
10.	Number of dwellings included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister	Nil
11.	Number of dwellings demolished in pursuance of Clearance Orders	Nil

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The following grants were authorised during the year:-

Type of Grant	Owner-Occupied Premises	Tenanted Premises	Total
Standard	6	1	7
Discretionary	46	24	70
Totals	52	25	77

Qualification Certificates

One hundred and one properties were inspected in connection with applications for Qualification Certificates or Certificates of Provisional Approval.

The Applications were dealt with as follows:—

A.	Certificates of Provisional Approval issued	7
B.	Qualification Certificates issued	82
C.	Applications refused	12

A general housing survey was commenced during the year with the object of updating the information held on the general standard of fitness and life expectancy of properties and to ascertain the amenities that had been provided in the light of the continued growth and popularity of house improvements coupled with the extension of mains water and drainage schemes in the district.

It was decided, as a basis upon which to work, to survey all houses having a rateable value of £40 or under.

Over three hundred houses in this category were inspected and though there still remain a substantial number to be visited, the conditions found generally were encouraging. It is hoped that the survey, which had to be temporarily abandoned due to pressure of work in other fields can be recommenced during 1971.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The following is a summary of the Annual Report made to the Department of Employment:—

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during year	Total No. of Premises registered at general inspection end of year	No. of premises receiving a general inspection during the year	Number of persons employed
Offices	10	63	14	449
Retail Shops	5	98	45	345
Wholesale Departments, and Warehouses	—	2	1	44
Catering Establishments open to the public and Canteens	1	16	10	80
Fuel Storage Depots	—	2	—	11
TOTALS	16	181	70	929

Total Number of Males employed 355

Total Number of Females employed 574

During the year 129 routine visits were made to 70 different registered premises within the district. It was found that in the main premises were entirely satisfactory. A small number of premises were found not to comply in all respects with the requirements of the Act and the sum total of infringements found are detailed below. No formal action was found necessary to effect compliance, the owners were notified either verbally or by letter of the deficiencies and in most cases remedial action was taken immediately.

Insufficient First Aid Equipment	3
Lack of Thermometer	3
Inadequate cleanliness (basically redcoration)	2
Inadequate ventilation to sanitary accommodation	2
Unsatisfactory floors, passages or stairs	1
Lack of hot water to handbasins	1
Suitable Temperature	1

SWIMMING POOLS

Each school in the district having a swimming pool was visited before the start of the swimming season to advise the pool operators of the correct use of the equipment including the balancing of the chlorine and pH levels and interpretation of the results obtained from the pool testing kits.

This was followed up during the Summer months with routine visits when water samples were taken from the pools for bacteriological examination and the free chlorine and pH levels checked with the office testing equipment.

Of twenty-six samples taken for bacteriological examination, twenty-three samples proved entirely satisfactory. Minor adjustments were made to the chlorination dosage at three pools and subsequent samples were of excellent quality.

PETROLEUM INSTALLATIONS

Number of installations licensed during 1970	63
Number of installations inspected	40
Number of visits made to these installations	187

In addition to the number of routine visits carried out to installations, other aspects of major importance arising in this field during the year led to a far greater proportion of time being spent on Petroleum during 1970 than in previous years.

Much of this was due to the installation in the District of a Bulk Storage Depot, the conversion of several existing premises to self-service operation and alterations and improvements to tanks and pipelines at existing installations, all of which demanded constant control from the planning stage, through construction and finally completion with testing of equipment. The pressure testing of aged petroleum tanks throughout the district, brought in under the new licence conditions, was also undertaken throughout the year.

In all 187 visits were made to premises in connection with the above.

Of thirty-three aged tanks tested for soundness, ten were found to be unsatisfactory and appropriate remedial action was taken. At eleven premises inspected, minor infringements of the Licence Conditions were found. The Licensees were notified either verbally or by letter and asked to rectify them. Four installations were closed down during the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER

Number of persons licenced	3
Number of inspections of swill boiling plant and equipment	6

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Of the 6 boarding kennels licensed during 1969, 5 continued to be used during 1970, the kennels at Purley being closed down in the early part of the year.

A new boarding establishment was built at Streatley, was inspected and subsequently licensed and was opened during July.

Alterations and extensions to provide additional accommodation were embodied in the final building works at the new quarantine kennels in the district. All work involved in the layout and building of these kennels was carried out in accordance with the stringent requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and close liaison was and continues to be maintained with the Ministry's veterinary officers. A section of the quarantine kennels was completed and brought into use early in 1970 and by the end of the year the kennels which can accommodate forty plus animals was in full use.

Number of boarding establishments in the district	6
Number of inspections	15

Premises were found to be satisfactory on each inspection and met with the approval of the local R.S.P.C.A. Inspector at a joint visit arranged to each establishment.

FOOD AND DRUGS

A. MILK AND DAIRIES

Routine samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination as follows:—

		Tested and found satisfactory			Failed Methylene Blue
		Methylene Blue	Phosphatase	Colony	
Untreated	22	22	—	—	—
Pasteurised	8	8	8	—	—
U.H.T.	2	—	—	2	—

All samples of raw milk were submitted to the Brucella ring test. Each proved negative.

B. REGISTRATION UNDER MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

During the year 5 persons were registered as distributors of milk under the above Regulations.

The total number of distributors in the district at the end of the year was 43.

Three premises in the district were registered as dairies.

C. FOOD PREMISES

Food premises in the district are as follows:—

Cafes and Restaurants	19
Licensed Premises and Hotels	47
Works Canteens	14
Clubs	14
School Kitchens and Hostels	28
Butchers	12
Bakers and Confectioners	1
Bakehouses	6
Grocers	67
Greengrocers	6
Confectioners	17
Milk Retailers	10
Poultry Slaughtering Premises	2
Others	11
Total	254

During the year 353 visits were made to 136 of the above premises and in general the standard of hygiene was good. The occupiers of 50 premises were requested either verbally or by letter to carry out various works in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations. No formal action was found necessary.

D. REGISTRATION UNDER SECTION 16 FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Number of premises registered during the year for:

Storage and sale of ice cream	6
-------------------------------	---

No. of Samples	Provisional Grade			
	I	II	III	IV
10	9	1		

The total number of registered premises in the district was as follows:—

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | For storage and sale of Ice Cream | 107 |
| 2. | For the manufacture or preparation of sausages or preserved food. | 33 |

E. VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOODS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The following food was voluntarily surrendered by food traders in the district and condemnation certificates issued:—

Contents of butchers cold store	1195 lb. carcase meat 156 lb. offal
Cooked meat and meat products	86 lb.
Canned meats	27 lb.
Fish	126 lb.
Other foods	80 lb.

The contents of 4 frozen food cabinets and 2 ice-cream conservators following breakdown of refrigeration units.

POULTRY INSPECTION

Number of poultry processing premises within the district	2
Number of visits to these premises	42
Total number of birds processed during the year	109,380
Types of birds processed:—	
Hens	107,400 (98.19%)
Roasting Chicken	1,330 (1.22%)
Turkeys	650 (0.59%)
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	0.68%
Weight of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	2,928 lbs.

As in previous years the larger of the two processing stations, which accounted for some 78% of the total throughput continued to produce New York Dressed birds (de-feathered but not eviscerated). At the other station where slaughtering is by the Muslim method almost all the birds were skinned and eviscerated. The owners of both premises carry out their own system of inspection and contact the Local Authority in the case of doubtful birds but in addition numerous visits were made to these premises when spot check inspections were carried out on the processed birds. The bulk of the carcasses rejected were for oedema and emaciation, tumours and parasitic conditions.

The Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967 came into operation on 1st January, 1970, and the larger establishment which is registered under the Act was found to be satisfactory on a joint inspection with an officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. The smaller establishment is exempt from these provisions of the Act as slaughter is by the Muslim method for the food of Muslims. Unsatisfactory hygienic conditions in this latter establishment continued to cause concern

and meetings and discussions took place with the owners. Whilst works have been carried out as a result it has been repeatedly necessary to contact the owners to have further defects remedied so as to prevent deterioration of the premises.

CLEAN AIR ACTS

Section 3(3) of the Clean Air Act 1956 requires that any person proposing to install a furnace, boiler or similar plant of a capacity of 55,000 B.T.U. per hour or greater shall give notice of their intention to the Local Authority. During the course of the year some 33 such notifications were received. These related principally to the larger domestic central heating boilers and from the information given it would seem that each of these appliances should be capable of efficient operation without giving rise to nuisance.

Sections 3 and 6 of the Clean Air Act 1968 require that grit and dust arrestment plant must be fitted and the height of the chimney approved by the Local Authority in respect of new furnaces burning pulverised fuel or solid fuel at a rate of 100 pounds per hour or more or liquid or gaseous fuel at a rate equivalent to 1¼ million or more B.T.U. per hour. Two such applications were approved during the year, in one case the height of the chimney having been agreed with the applicant prior to submission and in the second case subject to an increase in the proposed chimney height. Advice was also sought in two cases relating to a proposed change of fuel for large furnaces. In one of these cases the existing chimney height was satisfactory and the conversion was carried out. The other case related to boiler plant of a total maximum output of 240 million B.T.U. per hour and here recommendations as to the necessary chimney heights were made but the possibility of conversion is still under consideration.

Application was made for the siting of a coating plant for the production of road surfacing material in the Burghfield area. It was felt that there was a likelihood of nuisance from this plant by way of noise, dust, smoke and fumes and this Council's Planning and Building Committee refused consent to the plan. However, on the instructions of the County Planning Committee a consent is to be issued early in 1971 and further details of the plant will then be required to assess the adequacy of the grit and dust arresting equipment.

During the course of the year a number of complaints were received relating to alleged nuisance to householders from bonfires in neighbours' gardens. This was particularly so during the refuse collectors strike when for some people, this was the only available means of disposal of material which would otherwise decay and give rise to nuisance by way of smell and fly breeding. Section 16 of the Clean Air Act 1956 enables the Local Authority to take action when such smoke is a nuisance to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood but in each case it was possible to deal with the matter informally by advising the persons concerned on steps to ensure the least likelihood of nuisance when carrying out such burning.

COMPLAINTS RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION WORKS ON M4 MOTORWAY

During the early Summer of 1970 a considerable number of complaints were received from residents living in the Pincent's Hill area of Tilehurst regarding nuisances being caused by works being carried out on the M4 Motorway extension and the associated construction work.

Investigation revealed that the main complaint related to an area of Pincent's Hill where sand was being won for construction work on the Motorway and concerned the noise being created by the large earthmoving machines together with their hours of working.

It was found that limitations on the hours of working had been laid down in the initial planning Consent but unfortunately there were legal flaws in this document with the result that the Contractors concerned could work for as long as they wished.

The large 'Euclid' and similar earth moving machines are powered by 6 cylinder front and rear engines and are capable of carrying a load of up to 40 tons of sand at one time.

These machines were working for an average of some 16 hours every weekday and sometimes on Saturday and Sunday from dawn until dusk. Noise meter readings taken in the vicinity of the complainants' houses showed a very considerable increase over the ambient noise level for the area and in excess of the acceptable maximum noise level for heavy construction works suggested in the Wilson report.

Letters were sent to various Ministries seeking advice on the best means of either controlling or stopping this noise nuisance but regrettably no such assistance was forthcoming.

A site meeting took place with the Contractors and although the lines of working were changed slightly so that ground contours shielded the complainants' houses and reduced the noise level minimally, it was steadfastly maintained that it was not possible to fit effective and efficient silencers to the Euclid motors. However, after a considerable number of letters and phone calls to various agents for this type of plant throughout the country it was ascertained and the contractors were informed that it was in fact possible to fit effective silencers to these engines without serious loss of efficiency.

Eventually the contractors fitted silencers to these engines and a considerable reduction in noise level resulted. By that time, some 3½ months after the initial complaint a further problem arose. A long dry spell had caused an area of some 52 acres to dry out creating a dust bowl from which the slightest wind or vehicle movement caused miniature dust or sand storms. It was difficult to suggest any practical measures that could be taken to alleviate the situation and it was a case of waiting for rain to lay the dust. This fortunately occurred, it being a comparatively normal English summer.

At a time when there is world-wide emphasis on the prevention of pollution and the control of the environment, it is unfortunate that a local authority has so little power to prevent this type of nuisance being created. Had the Council instituted legal proceedings under the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act 1960 which had resulted in a conviction for an offence under the Act, the maximum penalty prescribed is a fine of £50 with a daily penalty of £5 for each day the offence continues. This daily £5 penalty would barely cover the cost of operating one of the Euclid machines for an hour.

It is, perhaps, interesting to consider that although these machines had previously been working without silencers in the areas of other Local Authorities it was apparently only as a result of action taken in this District that silencers were first fitted. It is felt that Local Authorities should be given greater powers than at present existing to deal with the type of nuisance arising from major construction works of this nature.

RODENT CONTROL

Number of complaints received	256
1. Number of different domestic premises visited	1,863
Total number of inspections made	2,945
Total number of treatments to domestic premises	315
2. Number of different business premises visited	314
Total number of inspections made	1,331
Total number of treatments to business premises	200
3. Number of different Local Authority premises visited	21
Total number of inspections made	278
Total number of treatments to L.A. premises	36
4. Number of different agricultural premises visited	117
Total number of inspections made	1,364
Total number of treatments to agricultural premises	287

(Figures do not include those visits made in connection with survey of sewers or refuse compound control which are detailed below).

Number of Contracts:

A.	Private Dwellings	70
B.	Business premises	68
C.	Agricultural premises	52

Value of Contracts: £1,826

Staff: Rodent Officer. 2 Rodent Operators

During the year the Divisional Pests Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture carried out an inspection of sewers within the District and was well satisfied with the absence of infestation shown by the test baiting carried out by the Council's Rodent Officer. This involved the baiting of a percentage of sewer manholes at pre-selected points throughout the whole area.

Of the eighty-seven manholes baited, no takes were recorded. Two hundred and sixty-three additional visits were made in connection with this operation.

In view of the satisfactory situation found, the Ministry have subsequently deferred further tests on the sewer systems for a period of three years.

An additional one hundred and sixty-four visits were also made by the rodent control staff to the temporary refuse collection points set up in the district during the period of the strike.

As previously reported, routine visits were made daily to each collection compound and both disinfection and fly control was carried out as necessary.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

	Premises	Number on Register	No. of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
1.	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	NIL	NIL
2.	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	85	63	3	NIL
3.	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	5	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL		91	64	3	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found		Notified		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	—	—	—	—

HUNGERFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector

WATER SUPPLIES

The table showing the estimated position with regard to Public Mains and Other Water Supplies

Parish	Houses	Estimated Population	Public Mains Water	Private mains or wells
Combe and West Woodhay	60	185	57	3
East Garston	169	560	138	31
East and West Shefford	223	615	193	30
Hungerford	1,272	3,850	1,251	21
Inkpen	286	750	228	58
Kintbury	757	2,040	594	163
Lambourn	985	2,800	962	23
TOTALS	3,752	10,800	3,422	329

Samples were taken as below:—

Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Samples taken from Public Supplies	1	—
Samples taken from Private Supplies	4	1

SEPTIC TANK EMPYTING SCHEME

When quotations were received for the financial year 1970/71, it was found that nothing could be gained by continuing the existing arrangements whereby the Council received all requests for service and the accounts for work carried out by the Contractors. The Council then charged the ratepayer the appropriate amount for the work (less any subsidy due). It was found that as the prices had risen considerably the Council would be wrong in continuing the scheme, but the ratepayers were still allowed the subsidy of £1.50 per dwelling per year, when arrangements were made direct with the Contractors. There has not been very much apparent inconvenience to the general public as a result of this alteration in the scheme.

The table shows work carried out (until 31st March) and subsidies paid from 1st January to 31st December, 1970.

Parish	Dwellings for which service was requested					Dwellings requiring second service	Dwellings on which no subsidy can be paid
	Dwellings on which subsidy was paid	Subsidy					
		£	s.	d			
Combe and West Woodhay	4	3	15	0	—	—	
East Garston	2	3	0	0	1	—	
East and West Shefford (incl. Shefford Woodlands)	7	10	0	0	—	—	
Hungerford	24	32	17	6	3	1	
Inkpen	33	45	15	0	6	1	
Kintbury	4	6	0	0	1	1	
Lambourn (incl. Eastbury, Woodland St. Mary, Upper Lambourn and Lambourn Woodlands)	16	24	0	0	3	2	
TOTAL	90	125	7	6	13	5	

HOUSING

Number of dwellings built

(a)	by local authority	34
(b)	by private enterprise	108

Remedy of defects during the year

1.	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	11
2.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
3.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Undertakings were made	19
4.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
5.	Number of dwellings demolished following formal or informal action	3
6.	Number of dwelling-houses included in Clearance Orders made by the Local Authority	0
7.	Number of dwellings included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister	0
8.	Number of dwellings demolished in pursuance of Clearance Orders	0

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

We have now had a full 12 months operation of the 1969 Housing Act which increased the amount of Discretionary and Standard grants which could be paid in respect of improvements, modernisation or conversions. Under this Act, for the first time, the cost of certain repairs could be claimed as eligible for grant aid and as expected, and mentioned in my last report, some considerable discussion and argument has taken place over the question of which repairs were eligible and which were not. We have interpreted this point that repairs could be reasonably included if they were due to "old age" in general and not just neglect. I feel that this attitude is now being generally accepted by the applicants or their Architects and Builders.

I have been very conscious of an apparent difference of attitude, which has appeared between information given to the general public and the Act itself, as we have understood it. However, applications for Discretionary Grant and Standard Grant, both normal and extended have been quite steady over the past year.

It is felt that the new Discretionary Grant which helps with the cost of repairs has proved very worthwhile, particularly in the case of some owner/occupiers who have not been able to cover the cost of both improvements and the repairs, due to the age of the dwelling.

There is, I would suggest, more satisfaction in sight of an old country cottage which has been improved and repaired, than a completely new dwelling, no matter how much effort can have been taken to blend the materials in the surrounding countryside.

The following grants were authorised during the year:-

	Owner/Occupied Premises	Tenanted Premises	Total
Standard	5	—	5
Discretionary	5	4	9
Improvement Grants which were paid during the year:—			
Standard	2	5	7
Discretionary	2	2	4

CARAVAN SITES and CONTROL of DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

As expected the private site at Lambourn was virtually complete and all the dwellings were occupied. This site should fulfil a considerable need in this Parish, bearing in mind that there appears to be a more frequent change in tenancies of dwellings through the racing establishments than the other areas in the district. Further, the types of dwellings which have been placed on this site are of a more permanent nature than ever was thought of some few years ago, when caravans and caravan sites were considered to be "second class" accommodation, and were without doubt frowned upon by the majority of the general public and local authorities alike. I feel that only time can prove whether this site can be maintained in a reasonable state, similar to a small private housing estate.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Milk and Dairies

Routine sampling of milk for bacteriological examination was carried out and is set out below:—

	No. of Samples	Tested and found satisfactory			Unsatis- factory
		Methylene Blue Test	Phosphatase Test	Turbidity Test	
T.T. Past (C.I.	2	1	2	N/A	—
		1 Void			
T.T. Past	2	2	2	—	—
Pasteurised	3	2	3	N/A	—
		1 Void			
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	—
Raw T.T. (C.I.)	2	2	N/A	N/A	—
T.T. Past Hom.	—	—	—	—	—

Sale of Food

No. of Food Premises in the district

Cafes and Restaurants	2
Licensed Premises and Hotels	31
Hostels	2
Works Canteens	2
School Kitchens	5
Butchers	6
Fishfriers and Mongers	5
Grocers	23
Greengrocers	4
Bakehouses	1
Confectioners	14
Milk Retailers	6
Baker and Confectioners	7
Clubs	4
Others	9

Unfit Food

Cooked Meat	106 lbs.
Tinned Food	41 tins
(Vegetables, Fruit, Tomatoes, etc.)	

Ice-cream

No applications for registration were received during the year.

No. of Samples	Provisions Grade I, II, III, IV
3	3, — — —

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection

This service run by the local authority, is in my opinion, becoming much more important, and it must be accepted that if an adequate and regular service is to be provided, the provision of money to pay for it is essential. The ratepayers will be able to see that they are getting something for the additional expense and I think would welcome the improved service.

The time has come when consideration should be given to the alteration of the "kerbside" collection to back-door collections. This can only be efficiently operated with the use of "sacks". Towards the end of the year the Public Health Committee appointed a Sub-Committee to look into the whole question of collection and it is hoped that it will consider a report early in the New Year. Part of their discussions must involve the replacement of one of the Council's compression machines which is some six years old. These compression type machines have proved to be very expensive in maintenance and repairs, although they do an effective job in compressing the bulky lightweight refuse. Some thought will be given to the possible use of less "sophisticated" machines, even modified open vehicles which would mean a "sack" collection only - no loose refuse, as is often the case under present circumstances. But this must be left to the Sub - Committee who will, no doubt, make suitable recommendations to the Public Health Committee for action during the current year.

It would be wrong if I did not mention here that the various "pilot" schemes, tried over the past 12 months, have proved to be very satisfactory and well received by the occupiers of the dwellings using the sacks, paper or polythene, surely this gives a pointer to the service which the ratepayers would like the Council to provide.

Special Monthly Collection

The Council's once monthly special collection of bulky refuse, such as old furniture, cycle frames etc. is continuing to prove very useful and worthwhile. It must be pointed out that this service has been, in one way or another, in operation for some 20 years. In fact, before the Council purchased compression type machines, this bulky refuse was collected during the normal routine of daily collections. As a result of this practice there has been little need to spend any time in collecting such articles as litter, from ditches or fields. The County Litter Warden has commented on numerous occasions on the fact that the district shows no signs of litter "dumping".

Disposal

Once again I come to the annual questions of how long can we continue to carry out "controlled" tipping or do we have sufficient tipping space available. These thoughts are continually with the Department, and at present one of our hopes is that when the M4 is actually in use and the Ministry of Transport are able to review the position of traffic on the A4 road, we will then renew our enquiries into the use of pits having access from the A4, and which now cannot be used for our purposes, although we may have all other necessary approvals.

The site at Dark Lane, Hungerford has been in use for the majority of the past 12 months and is proving very worthwhile, and justified the work of preparation put into the site before it was used for refuse disposal. The farmer and owner of the land appeared to be very satisfied with our use of the site and I am not aware of any complaints from any quarter.

The site at Lambourn Woodlands continues to be used whenever weather permits, and is valuable when collections are made in that area.

Derelict Vehicles

This problem has not grown as yet to the proportion which was anticipated, over the past years. It may be due in some degree, to the fact that the Council will remove vehicles free of charge upon request by the owner. These vehicles are taken to the Council's tip from where they are removed by the scrap merchant in specially provided containers. Some vehicles are actually taken, by arrangement, to the tip by the owners, who are often pleased to have

the opportunity of disposing of the vehicles when it is found to be unroadworthy and before it becomes immobile.

LITTER

There was little activity in this section until the second half of the year, when a request was received from the Hungerford Parish Council for the replacement of the existing small post type litter baskets throughout the High Street. The Council have agreed to this action and it is intended to provide a more suitable container, in the form of a free standing unit, at various points in the High Street. In addition, other containers would be installed in the Car Park in Church Street and on the green at The Crescent, Hungerford.

Discussions have also taken place with the Lambourn and Kintbury Parish Councils with regard to either the renewal or resiting of bins already in existence.

It is intended that all the new litter receptacles will be in position early in the current year.

RODENT CONTROL

The table below is a copy of the annual return sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

		TYPE OF PROPERTY	
Properties other than sewers		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in district	4178	357
2.	a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	258	17
	b) Number infested by (i) Rats	162	9
	(ii) Mice	12	—
3.	a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	17	106
	b) Number infested by (i) Rats	15	106
	(ii) Mice	2	—
4.	No sewers were infested by rats during the year.		

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT

One licence was issued during the year in respect of premises used for boarding cats.

PETROLEUM

Total number of premises licenced at end of year	61
No. of visits made to licenced premises (including detailed inspections)	26

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following is a copy of the Annual Report made to the Minister of Labour.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during year	Total No. of Premises registered at end of year	No. of premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	13	—
Retail Shops	2	30	4
Wholesale Shops and warehouses	—	—	—
Catering	1	3	1
Fuel	—	1	1
TOTAL	4	47	5

Total number of Males employed	89
Total number of Females employed	149
Total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises	72

The table shows that five applications for registration were received during the year. These premises which were inspected and registered previously, showed only minor infringements of the Act, those being generally the absence of the Abstract of the Act or provision of thermometers. Letters to the occupiers of the premises usually brought a quick response and the missing items were provided.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Prosecutions (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	40	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).			—	—
TOTAL	41	43	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found		Notified		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
		Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—	—

NEWBURY RURAL DISTRICT

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector

Foreword by the Chief Public Health Inspector

Included in the body of the report are general comments on the various subject matters, I would however like to draw special attention to the following.

Early in 1970, Mr. H.M. Blackshaw was appointed Deputy Chief Inspector, certain reorganisation took place following this appointment including the bringing of Refuse Collection and Disposal under the Direct control of the Public Health Inspectors.

Towards the end of the year the Council agreed to the appointment of an authorised meat inspector to carry out meat inspection at the Pound Lane slaughterhouse. This new appointment will allow more routine inspections to be carried out in the future.

During the year the back door paper sack refuse collection scheme was extended to take in the whole District.

Plans have been made to carry out a survey of all houses in the District in 1971.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE AT 31st DECEMBER 1970

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR P.J. WIGGINS

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR G.H. PEARCE

Councillors:—

MR. G.W. WALLIS

The Chairman of the Council

Air/Cdre. H.G. BLAIR, C.B.E.

The Vice-Chairman of the Council

MISS B.M. CRUMP, MRS. J.R. BOWDEN, MRS. P. DAVIES,

MRS. A. SAYERS, MESSRS. P. BAKER, E.J. ETTRIDGE,

A.C. FLEMING, F. HOWES, J.G. JANAWAY,

B.G. MERRIMAN, C.G. POTT, R.T. REED & R.H. STRADLING

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector

C.J. COOKE, M.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

H.M. BLACKSHAW, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

S. BURGESS, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistant

MRS. J.D. MUNDY

Water Supplies

Properties having mains water in our District are supplied by the Thames Valley Water Board. Three complaints have been received during the year concerning mains water, all relating to pressure and not purity.

WATER SUPPLIES

The following table shows the position in the various parishes.

Parish	Population	Number of Houses	Houses without mains water
Boxford	537	167	13
Brimpton and Wasing	623	183	7
Chieveley	2105	531	27
Cold Ash	2202	571	2
Enborne	601	174	3
Greenham	1141	281	4
Hamstead Marshall	188	74	12
Hermitage	865	281	1
Leckhampstead	363	132	—
Midgham	383	111	11
Shaw-cum-Donnington	2259	729	9
Speen	1797	628	46
Thatcham	10098	3137	42
Welford	670	209	4
Winterbourne	201	72	6
Woolhampton	837	206	1
TOTAL	24,870	7,467	188*

*Of the 188 houses not on a public main water supply, 39 have a private main supply and the remainder are served either by a well or a bore.

Two samples of mains water were taken during the year from the slaughterhouse and six samples were taken from private wells or other source. Ten visits to private swimming pools were made and tests on chlorinate were carried out.

Of the eight samples taken for bacteriological examination one failed the test. The occupants have been advised to boil all drinking and washing water whilst further means of providing a satisfactory supply are investigated.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

This report was provided by the Engineer:-

During the year there were no capital schemes under construction due to pressure of other work and also to staff changes. However, a scheme for sewer-ing Hamstead Marshall was designed for commencement in 1971 and a survey for a surface water scheme in the Crown Mead area, Thatcham, was started.

Several small works were carried out including extension of the sewer at Sandy Lane, Curridge; the construction of a Pumping Station for Prior's Court School, Chieveley; enlargement of the Treatment Works at Church Close, Enborne; improvement to the Treatment Works at Wickham and minor improvements at Woolhampton.

Considerable progress was made during the year on reorganising the main-tenance of the 18 sewage treatment works, 18 pumping stations, plus numerous foul sewers and surface water sewers and ditches throughout the district. A close investigation of the operations involved was made early in the year. New main-tenance Schedules were drawn up and operated for a trial period and towards the

end of the year a complete Work Study was made, based on these worksheets with a view to introducing an incentive bonus scheme during 1971.

The system of control and supervision of new sewerage works on private development sites has been improved and during the year work has been in progress in various stages on a total of some ten sites.

Surveys have also been carried out on existing sewers and sewer records have been brought up to date as new revised ordnance sheets for the area have been received and several private-sewers have been taken over by the Council as a result of these investigations.

The previous standard specification for foul drainage, foul sewers and surface water sewers have been reviewed and revised into one document to incorporate more recent trends in pipe manufacture and in construction methods and also to introduce metrication.

Housing

The area is not overburdened with properties suitable for clearance action, the majority of unfit properties often being isolated and vacant. These tend to become improved with or without grant aid rather than demolished.

The following table indicates this position and also shows the considerable interest private builders have in the area where houses for owner occupation are heavily sought.

1.	Number of dwellings built:	
	(a) By Local Authority	1
	(b) By private persons	143
2.	Number of dwellings found to be unfit for habitation and not reparable at reasonable cost.	Nil
3.	Number of dwellings found to be unfit but capable of repair at reasonable cost.	46
4.	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action.	44
5.	Number of dwellings rendered fit by statutory action.	Nil
6.	Number of dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made.	Nil
7.	Number of dwellings demolished in pursuant of demolition order.	Nil
8.	Number of dwellings included in clearance orders.	Nil
9.	Numbers of dwellings demolished in pursuant to clearance orders.	Nil

House Purchase & Housing Acts, 1959, 1961, 1964 & 1969

All applications for both standard and Improvement (Discretionary) Grants are dealt with by the Public Health Department.

The following table shows the number of applications received for both types of grant in the past ten years.

Year	No. of Applications	No. Granted		Refused
		Standard	Discretionary	
1961	49	12	35	2
1962	56	9	45	2
1963	29	13	16	—
1964	43	13	26	4
1965	37	11	26	—
1966	40	24	14	2
1967	37	18	18	1
1968	25	11	14	—
1969	13	5	6	2
1970	43	19	17	7

The public are being made more aware of the availability of grants for works of improvement and more enquiries are being received concerning these. The increase in applications over 1969 is due to the prior knowledge that higher grants would shortly be forthcoming so encouraging owners to delay applications until this year. It is still apparent that the majority of applications come from the owner occupier, owners of tenanted property still seem reluctant to take advantage of the grant scheme however much encouragement they are given.

An Improvement Grant Exhibition was held in April in conjunction with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Consisting essentially of a series of 'before' and 'after' conversion photographs, it was poorly supported. Only 27 persons visited the Exhibition and many requests were for installation of central heating and extensions to existing fully equipped houses. There seems to be some misleading advertising being encouraged by the Ministry so making many Councils policies towards grant approval appear unreasonable to the public.

Some enquiries concerning Qualification Certificates were also received although no direct applications were forthcoming. It is anticipated that applications will materialise in 1971 and perhaps will encourage more owners of tenanted properties to have them improved.

Council Housing

This was again a poor year for completions. Trouble was experienced with a Contractor erecting 47 houses on 11 scattered sites. At the end of the year, the erection of 70 Council Houses were in progress, and it is anticipated that approximately 90 dwellings will be completed in 1971.

Dwellings under construction included a flatlet scheme of 20 dwellings for old persons including a Warden's flat.

It is anticipated that the scheme for the erection of 400 dwellings at Greenham Court, Pyle Hill will be commenced during 1971. This is a joint venture of the Borough and R.D.C. Final details were agreed during the year.

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act

The following table shows the number of licenced caravans as at 31st December.

(a) Individual	8
(b) Multiple (more than 3 on one site)	10
Total number of caravans on all sites	246

Various visits were made to the licenced sites during the year and any contraventions, all of minor concern, were dealt with following notification to the owners.

Some difficulty was experienced however, with a group of caravans which are exempt, under the present legislation, from any planning or licencing control. These are the workers who are employed on the construction of the M4 motorway and have, by the very nature of their trade, to live on or near the site of construction. It would appear that no provision is made either by the Ministry in its contracts or by the contractor himself who employs the workers to ensure satisfactory hygienic sites for these workers and their families. The caravan dwellers require site accommodation from periods of a few months up to approximately two years before moving to other jobs. Caravans have appeared overnight on several sites adjoining the motorway and great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the basic requirements of water supply, sanitary accommodation and refuse collection. The situation encourages bad relations with the local inhabitants and leads to even greater resentment by locals and caravan dwellers alike. The loophole in the law giving rise to these conditions which must be repeated up and down the country with so many motorways either under construction or planned, could so easily be closed by a clause in contracts making the provision of suitable sites, following prior consultation with the Councils concerned, compulsory.

Food Premises

The following table shows the number of types of food premises in the area which are subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

Grocers	41
Bakers and Confectioners (including 4 bakeries)	7
Butchers	6
Greengrocers	5
Sugar Confectioners	9
Fishmongers	2
Fried Fish Shops	1
Public Houses and Hotels	45
Other caterers and canteens	9
Sausage and Pie Manufacturers	1
TOTAL	126

Seven premises are registered for the manufacture of sausages and sixty-two are licenced for the storage and sale of pre-wrapped ice-cream.

Some inspections of premises were carried out but it is hoped that more routine work will be carried out next year following a re-appraisal of staff engaged on food hygiene and meat inspection.

Meat Inspection

The one slaughterhouse in the area which reopened under new ownership in November 1969 continued production throughout the year. This has been designed for a throughput of 'smalls' only being nearly all pigs. Towards the end of the year, the kill has increased and with every prospect of this being maintained and in fact exceeded, a re-appraisal of staff is to be considered early in 1971.

Every carcase and offal was inspected and details are given below of meat condemned.

The slaughterhouse is kept in a very clean and satisfactory condition and the pigs are of a high quality.

The following were killed during 1970:—

Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Total
31,802	39	30	31,871

Quantity condemned:—

10 tons 19 cwt. 3 qr. 27 lbs.

All condemned meat is removed for the manufacture of animal food or fertilisers.

The following table is a summary of the return sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Concerning tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis Only	Pigs
Whole carcases condemned	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	109
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	0.34
Other items of food surrendered and condemned were:—	
Frozen beef	203 lbs.
Fresh Chickens (56)	224 lbs.
Shoulder of lamb	5 lbs.

Meat Inspection Regulations 1963

These regulations came into force on 1st October 1963. The Council decided to levy the maximum charges allowed viz:-

9d for each calf or pig

6d for each sheep, lamb or goat

The total charged levied on the slaughterhouse owners for the year 1970 amounted to £1,194. 13. 6. which was paid into the general rate fund.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 - 54

Nine slaughtermen's licences were issued being four full, four restricted and one provisional.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963

Although the number of visits made under the provisions of the Act were less than in the previous year, routine work was maintained as far as possible. Over one half of the seventy-nine visits made entailed a complete inspection covering all aspects of the Act and Regulations. A number of contraventions were found and, generally speaking, received prompt attention upon informal approach to the person responsible.

The number of persons employed in premises registered under the Act tends to vary considerably and it is difficult to give an accurate figure of the total number of workers covered by its provisions. With this in mind, the total number of persons is 326 on the 88 premises.

Accidents

Only two accidents were reported in the year, one being a fall, the result of an employee climbing up storage shelves, and the other a strain caused by lifting a bag of silver coins onto scales. It seems a little surprising that with over 300 employees working every day only two accidents should occur. Failure to report these may be ignorance on behalf of employers in their responsibilities concerning accidents involving loss of working days.

The table is an extract of the Annual Report made to the Ministry.

Class of Premises	Premises Registered during the year	Total No. of Registered Premises	General Inspections during the year	Persons Employed
Offices	—	26	10	86
Retail Shops	—	43	21	133
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	1	4	3	49
Catering establishments open to the public and canteens	—	14	10	47
Fuel Storage depots	—	1	1	11
Totals	1	88	45	326
Total number of Males employed		154	Total number of visits to registered premises under the Act.	
Total number of Females employed		172		
				79

Petroleum Installations

At December 31st 1970, 69 premises were licenced for the storage of petroleum spirit. Visits were made to all of the premises when any contravention was brought to the owner's notice. Some difficulty is experienced in obtaining renewal applications owing to a delay in supplying the accompanying electrical certificate.

Refuse Collection & Disposal

1970 saw the remaining residential properties changing over to a back

door paper sack collection. With the last phase it is anticipated that some 450,000 sacks will be used in the year. Dustbins are still in use at business premises mainly in the Thatcham area.

The District is served by three rear loading compression refuse vehicles in constant use and one similar vehicle as standby. An open 3-ton tipper lorry is used for collection of larger items and such items that would cause damage to the refuse vehicles. The following table shows details of the vehicles in use.

No.	Makers	Capacity	Type	Date commissioned
1	Shelvoke & Drewry Limited	35 cu. yd.	Pakamatic with compression ram	June 1964
2	"	"	"	April 1965
3	"	"	"	June 1966
4	"	"	"	June 1969
5	700F.G. Morris	3 ton wt.	Tipper	April 1970
6	International 3434	1 cu. yd. bucket	Drott 4 in 1 Loader	January 1970

Vehicles Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are used throughout the working week. Vehicle No. 4 as standby and Vehicle No. 5 for special and old iron collections.

Old iron is collected from the whole of the District twice a year. This is a kerbside collection and entails the hire of an outside contractor together with the Council's 3-ton lorry. All labour, except one driver, being provided by the Council. The total quantity collected in 1970 amounted to 151 loads.

One aspect of refuse collection was given special consideration during the year:-

The type of vehicle best suited for paper sack collection. A reappraisal of the bonus incentive scheme was delayed until 1971 because in Thatcham the loading rate of Pakamatic, ram-operated vehicle, at times was insufficient, and the rate of loading was determined by the vehicle and not the capabilities of the crew. Demonstrations of several types of vehicle were carried out during the year, each demonstration was for at least one full working day under normal collection conditions. The demonstrations resulted in a Shelvoke & Drewry Revo Pak being ordered for delivery in May 1971, and it is likely that the Council will standardise on this type of vehicle which allows a high rate of loading.

Disposal of refuse continues to be carried out jointly with Newbury Borough at Lower Way, Thatcham. This is controlled tipping and some nuisance with flies was experienced in the summer months and it is intended to take preventive measures next year.

No materials whatsoever are salvaged from the refuse collected.

The manual employees work a five day week with two weeks of paid annual holiday plus extra days for long service, and last, but not least, a successful Bonus Incentive Scheme.

A new and perhaps novel idea was tried successfully in the year when two private organisations paid for advertising space on the face of the refuse sacks. With a guaranteed circulation of the whole district for approximately three months of 100,000 sacks perhaps we have seen the beginning of a new advertising medium.

A generally satisfactory service was given throughout the year to all parts of the district.

Also, 1970 saw the opening of the new Depot and Stores at Pound Lane Thatcham. This was officially opened on the 8th May and serves as a base for the refuse collectors, housing and sewage maintenance employees and incorporates the housing maintenance stores. A workshop is provided for the mechanic and showers, sanitary accommodation and rest room for all employees. This has considerably lessened the vehicle congestion at the Council Offices and lends itself to greater efficiency.

Litter Bins

There are now 95 litter bins in the District. These are emptied as necessary by the refuse collectors on their normal round.

Civic Amenities Act 1967

This Act makes it a duty of a local authority to remove from any land in open air or from any other land forming part of a highway in their area a motor vehicle which appears to have been abandoned. Vehicles of value have to be removed to a compound and the owner notified while with valueless vehicles a notice has to be affixed to the vehicle for 7 days after which the vehicle shall be removed.

During the year 15 (14 valueless, 1 re-sold) vehicles have been removed, 5 with the aid of the Police. These were removed by a private contractor at a fixed fee to the Council. This fee was recovered from the registered owner in as many cases as possible.

Animal Boarding Establishments

Six premises were again registered for the boarding of cats and dogs, each one being inspected prior to licencing.

Conditions were generally satisfactory. The maximum numbers of animals allowed at any one time is:-

166 dogs 93 cats

Rodent Control

The joint scheme with Newbury Borough Council and Hungerford Rural District Council worked well for the year. The operators work under the direction of the Borough Public Health Department, costs being apportioned between the three participants later.

The details given the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were:-

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.			
		Type of Property	
Properties other than sewers		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in district	7,267	379
2.	a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	300	6
	b) Number infested by (i) Rats	230	3
	(ii) Mice	23	—
3.	a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	14	76
	b) Number infested by (i) Rats	13	76
	(ii) Mice	1	—
Sewers			
4.	Sewers infested by rats during the year	None	

Factories Act 1961

There were 82 factories on the register at the end of the year.

Whilst this Department's responsibility is limited, inspections were carried out as required and contact maintained with some factories.

There is still one outworker employed in the District engaged on the making of wearing apparel.

The table below shows the number of inspections made.

Premises (1)	Number of Register Inspections (2)	(3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	3	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	75	22	Nil	Nil
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	82	25	Nil	Nil

Berkshire County Council Act, 1953

Adoption of Licencing of Buildings for Public Dancing, Singing & Music.

In 1970, this Council agreed to adopt the relevant sections in the 1953 Berkshire County Council Act regarding inspections of properties requiring a licence for public entertainment. Initial inspections are carried out by the Public Health Inspector together with representatives from the County Council and the Berkshire Fire Authority. Subsequent inspections are to be carried out by the Public Health Inspector with the County Council representative in attendance every fourth year.

During the year a total of 14 applications were received, 10 being licenced, 3 deferred because the premises do not yet comply and 1 found upon inspection to be exempt from the Act.

Theatres Act, 1968

This is closely allied to the previously mentioned Public Dancing, Singing and Music licencing and inspections are carried out in a similar way.

In 1970 one application was received for an annual licence and following inspection this was granted.

